UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/834,701	04/12/2001	Tom Ren	REN,01B	5019

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EXAMINER
TRUONG, CAM Y T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	10

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _15 December 2003_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-12 and 17-23_ is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-12 and 17-23_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
      application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application)
   since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet.
   37 CFR 1.78.
   a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific
   reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Applicant has amended claims 1, 17 in the amendment filed on 12/15/03. Claims

1-12 and 17-23 are pending in this Office Action.

Applicant's arguments filed 12/15/03 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

Applicant argues that Reilly does not teach the claimed limitation "receiving

records of individuals from an existing database automatically and without action

taken by the individuals".

Examiner disagrees as argued. Reilly teaches that computer system 110

automatically sends a request to the IP address from forwarding server 300,

asking for a new e-mail address that corresponding to the old e-mail address.

Forwarding server 300 receives the request, which preferably includes the old e-

mail address, and checks for any new address in its database associated with

the old e-mail address. The old e-mail address is stored in the computer system

110's database. The above information shows that the Forwarding server 300

automatic receives the request, which includes the old e-mail address from

computer system 110's database without action taken by the individuals. Each

old-email address is represented as a record of each user (col. 9, lines 15-58).

Applicant argues that Reilly does not teach the claimed limitation "a database

automatically populated with existing customer data records without action taken by the

customer".

Examiner disagrees as argued. Johnson teaches that the patient demographic

database is automatically populated using information extracted from certain document.

This information shows that the patient demographic database is automatically

populated without action taken by the customer (col. 3, lines 19-20).

For the above reason, examiner believed that rejection of the last office action

was proper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Reilly (USP 6427164) in view of Robertson (USP 6269369).

As to claim 1, Reilly teaches the claimed limitations

"receiving records of individuals from an existing database automatically and

without action taken by the individuals" as computer system 110 automatically

sends a request to the IP address from forwarding server 300, asking for a new

e-mail address that corresponding to the old e-mail address. Forwarding server

300 receives the request, which preferably includes the old e-mail address, and

checks for any new address in its database associated with the old e-mail

address. The old e-mail address is stored in database. The above information

shows that the Forwarding server 300 automatic receives the request, which

includes the old e-mail address from computer system 110's database without

action taken by the individuals. Each old-email address is represented as a

record of each user (col. 9, lines 15-58);

"populating a web-based database with the individual records" as (col. 1, lines

60-67; col. 2, lines 1-35).

Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitations "creating an access account......by

use of the access account". However, Robertson teaches the claimed limitations:

"creating an access account for each individual record" as the database 340

contains contact information entered by registered users. Fig.6 outlines the data

structure of the relational database 340 in the preferred embodiment, in which

seven tables 350 are employed to enable most of the functionality of the present

invention: Customer table 440; Friend table 460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table

420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500; and Travel Event Table 520. The

Customer table 440 contains on record for each unique user. The field in this

table is Customer ID 440-2. All information stored in the various database tables

relating to a particular member is linked together by a unique number in this field.

Other important fields in this table include information used by users to login to

the system such as username 440-6 and password 440-8. This information

shows that the system creates each user an access account (fig. 6, col. 4, lines

60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5).

" transmitting the access account to the individuals" as teaches the database

340 that is stored in a server contains contact information entered by registered

users. Fig.6 outlines the data structure of the relational database 340 in the

preferred embodiment, in which seven tables 350 are employed to enable most

of the functionality of the present invention: Customer table 440; Friend table

460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table 420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500;

and Travel Event Table 520. The Customer table 440 contains on record for

each unique user. The field in this table is Customer ID 440-2. All information

stored in the various database tables relating to a particular member is linked

together by a unique number in this field. Other important fields in this table

include information used by users to login to the system such as username 440-6

and password 440-8. This information shows that the system creates each user

an access account and transmits passwords to users for logon the system (fig. 6,

col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5);

"enabling remote maintenance of the individual records by use of the access

account" as whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of

his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the

information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view

the information in that data field (col. 3, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of storing personal information

for users in database server, providing passwords to users for logon the system and

modifying any information in any data field of user data record to allow other users

viewing the user's record to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 2, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation "the records are received by transfer across an electronic link" as sending e-mail server then automatically resends the e-mail message destined for user2 to the new address (col. 8, lines 30-40).

As to claim 3, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the electronic link is electronic mail" as sending e-mail server then automatically resends the e-mail message destined for user2 to the new address (col. 8, lines 30-40).

As to claim 4, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation " electronic link is selected from satellite systems, cable systems, direct modem connections, network connections, VPN connections, or Intranet connections" as sending e-mail server then automatically resends the e-mail message destined for user2 to the new address via network connection (col. 8, lines 30-40; figs 1&2).

As to claim 5, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation " the populating of the web-based database with the individual records further comprises automatically mapping the records" as the electronic mail message is sent from the sending server to a receiving server associated with the receipt of the message. In order to accept the electronic mail content from the sending server, the receiving server must generally be

able to validate that there is indeed a user name corresponding exactly with the

electronic mail receipt's name. The receiving server thus, checks its database of

electronic mail users and validates the electronic mail recipient's name (col. 2, lines 25-

40; col. 3, lines 20-40).

As to claim 6, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation " wherein the populating of

the web-based database with the individual records further comprises manually

mapping the records" as the electronic mail message is sent from the sending server to

a receiving server associated with the receipt of the message. In order to accept the

electronic mail content from the sending server, the receiving server must generally be

able to validate that there is indeed a user name corresponding exactly with the

electronic mail receipt's name. The receiving server thus, checks its database of

electronic mail users and validates the electronic mail recipient's name (col. 2, lines 25-

40; col. 3, lines 20-40).

As to claim 7, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein the access

accounts are generated automatically". However, Robertson teaches whenever a

second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the

information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first

user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field (col. 3,

lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 9, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein the temporary access accounts are transmitted to the individuals by email". However, Robertson teaches the database 340 that is stored in a server contains contact information entered by registered users. Fig.6 outlines the data structure of the relational database 340 in the preferred embodiment, in which seven tables 350 are employed to enable most of the functionality of the present invention: Customer table 440; Friend table 460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table 420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500; and Travel Event Table 520. The Customer table 440 contains on record for each unique user. The field in this table is Customer ID 440-2. All information stored in the various database tables relating to a particular member is linked together by a unique number in this field. Other important fields in this table include information used by users to login to the system such as username 440-6 and password 440-8. This information shows that the system creates each user an access account and transmits passwords to users for logon the system (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of storing personal information for users in database server, providing passwords to users for logon the system and modifying any information in any data field of user data record to allow other users viewing the user's record to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 11, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein the remote maintenance occurs across the Internet." However, Robertson teaches whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field (col. 3, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 12, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein the remote maintenance comprises altering the individual records". However, Robertson teaches

whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field (col. 3, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

4.   Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly in view of Robertson and further in view of Trent et al (USP 5961620).

As to claim 8, Reilly discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 1, except the claimed limitation "wherein the temporary access accounts are transmitted to the individuals by fax". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax,

video, voice or email into Reilly and Robertson's system in order to allow a system or a

user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

5.   Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly

in view of Robertson and further in view of Trent and Despres et al (USP 6434379).

As to claim 10, Reilly discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 1,

except the claimed limitation "the temporary access accounts are transmitted by a

media selected from voice mail, physical address, or pager". However, Trent teaches

that address book application program maintains an address book information file,

which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The

default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a

predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined

communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col.

6, lines 40-50). Also, Despres teaches the network sending a voice message to the

terminal (col. 3, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication

types may include fax, video, voice or email and Despres's teaching of the network

sending a voice message to the terminal into Reilly and Robertson's system in order to

allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or

another system.

6.   Claims 17-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Lee et al (USP 6108691) in view of Johnson et al (or hereinafter "Johnson") (USP

5664109).

As to claim 17, Lee teaches the claimed limitations:

"an account generator provided for creating access numbers for the data

records" as the system generates a password for a registered user. This password is

stored in subscriber database 51. Monitor 46 can also generate requests to log in by

using names with randomly generated passwords to ensure that a security application

in the subscriber database is functioning properly. This information shows that the

system has included an account generator to create passwords for registered users.

Passwords are presented as access numbers (col.5, lines 1-20; col. 9, lines1-10);

"a broadcast system provided for distributing the access numbers to the customer"

as when processing system 32 receives the user-entered email address, it generates a

password and email that password to the user with the entered email address. Monitor

46 can also generate requests to log in by using names with randomly generated

passwords to ensure that a security application in the subscriber database is functioning

properly. The above information shows that the system has included a broadcast

system to distribute passwords to registered users (col. 5, lines 5-10; col. 9, lines 1-10);

"an update system provided to enable customer access to the data records by use

of the access numbers" the system generates a password for a registered user. Once

the user has password, that user can then log into the system. When a user first

registers and edits his or her main listing, the system requests that user identify himself

or herself against an entry in the main database. The user is allowed to move a cursor

through the names to select his or her entry. The above information shows that the

user uses the password to access his or her data record (col. 5, lines 1-10; col. 8, lines

43-60).

Lee does not clearly teach the claimed limitation "a database automatically

populated with existing customer data records without action taken by the customer".

However, Johnson teaches the patient demographic database is automatically

populated using information extracted from certain documents (col. 3, lines 19-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to apply Johnson's teaching of the patient demographic

database is automatically populated using information extracted from certain documents

to Lee's system in order to eliminate user's interaction and to eliminate steps of

processing for populating data in a database.

As to claim 18, Lee teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the database is a

web-based database" as database for city and state (fig.4, col. 5, lines 1-10).

As to claim 19, Lee teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the customer

data records include marketing profiles" as providing multiple database records of

similar promotional information with different vendors (col. 4, lines 45-55; col. 5, lines

25-45).

As to claim 21, Lee teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the broadcast system distributes the access numbers by email" as sending email to that potential recipient (col. 7, lines 20-21;col. 5, lines 1-10).

7.   Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Johnson and further in view of Trent .

As to claim 20, Lee and Johnson discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 17, except the claimed limitation "wherein the broadcast system distributes the access numbers by facsimile". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax, video, voice or email into Lee and Johnson's system in order to allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

8.   Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Johnson and further in view of Trent and Despres.

As to claim 22, Lee and Johnson discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 17, except the claimed limitation "wherein the broadcast ...., mail, or by pager". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50). Also, Despres teaches the network sending a voice message to the terminal (col. 3, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax, video, voice or email and Despres's teaching of the network sending a voice message to the terminal into Lee's system in order to allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

As to claim 23, Lee discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 17, except the claimed limitation "wherein the broadcast system distributes the access numbers by a combination of fax, email, and voice mail". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined

communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col.

6, lines 40-50). Also, Despres teaches the network sending a voice message to the

terminal (col. 3, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication

types may include fax, video, voice or email and Despres's teaching of the network

sending a voice message to the terminal into Lee and Johnson's system in order to

allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or

another system.

Conclusion

9.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure

Teare et al (USP 6151624).

Contact Information

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Cam-Y Truong whose telephone number is (703-605-

1169). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703-305-9790). The fax phone numbers

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703-872-9306).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Cam-Y Truong

12/22/03

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER